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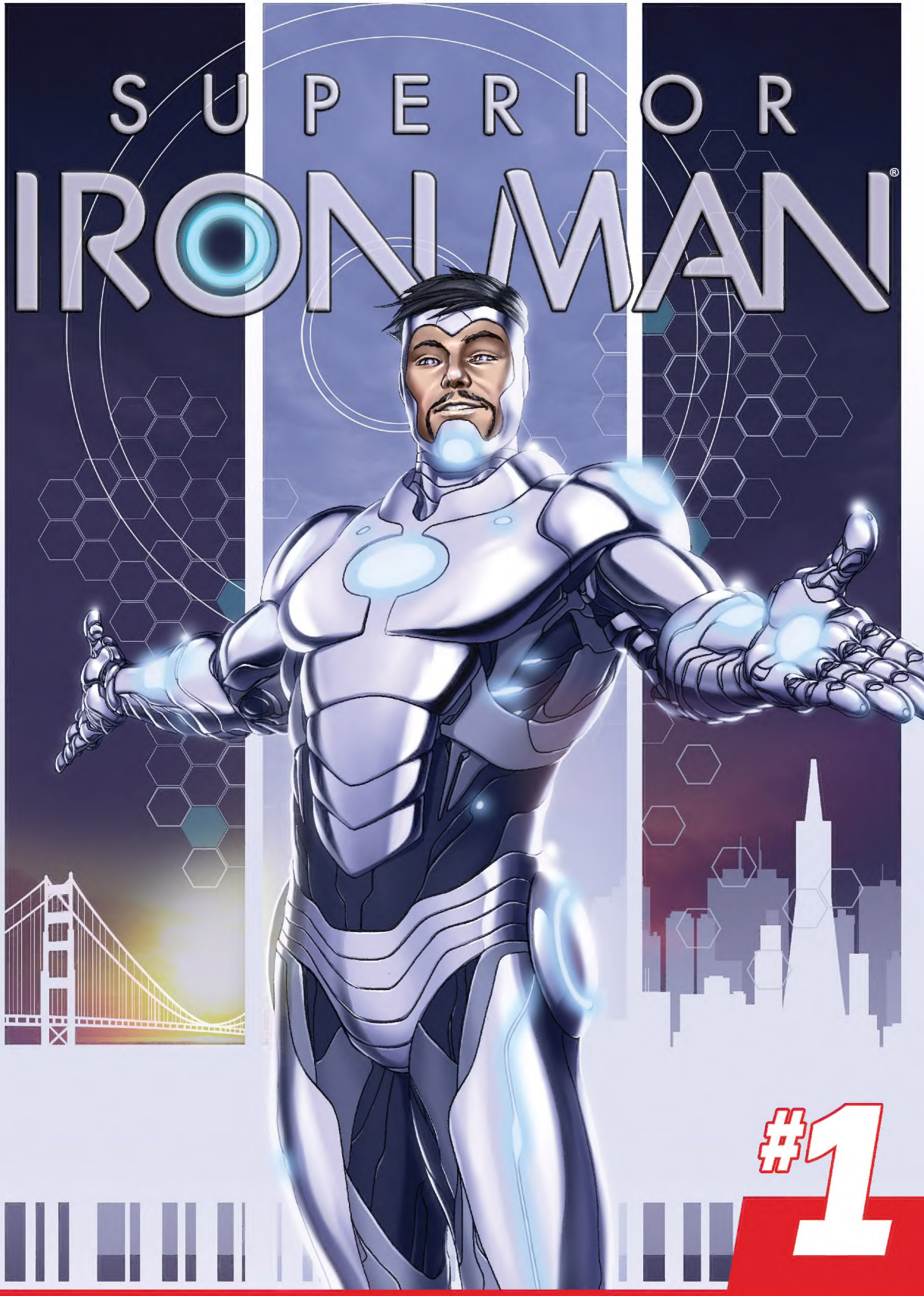

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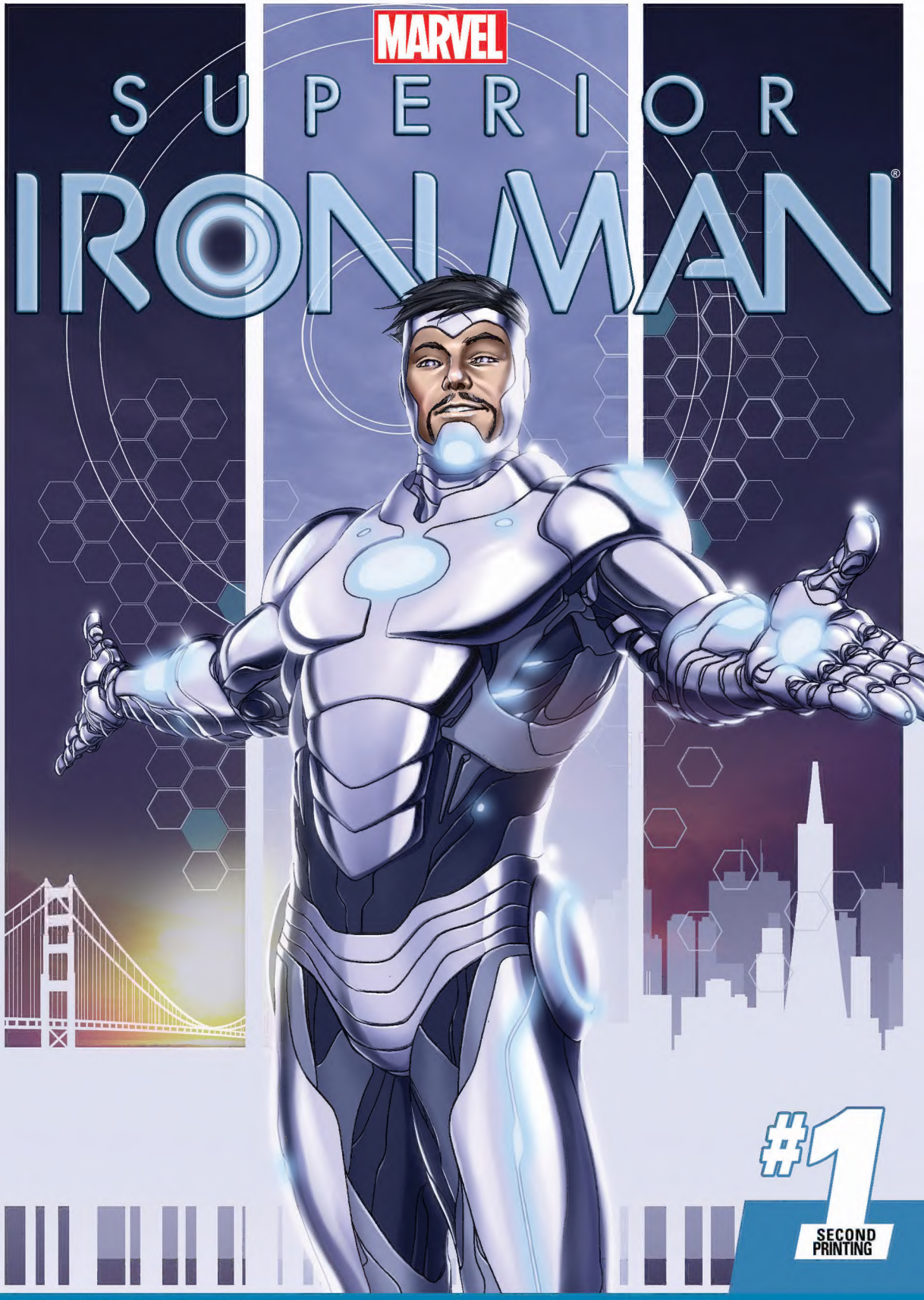

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BE BEAUTIFUL • BE INTELLIGENT • BE HEALTHY • BE IMMORTAL

BE SUPERIOR

Tony Stark is a technological visionary...a famous, wealthy and unparalleled inventor. With the world's most advanced and powerful suit of armor, Stark has valiantly protected the innocent as an invincible bright knight known as IRON MAN.

But when his mind was altered, a more selfish and devious personality surfaced. Can Tony Stark still be a hero when he thinks he's superior?

CHAPTER 1: NIGHTMARE SCENARIO

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Yildiray Cinar Artist
Guru-eFX Colorist
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WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE...

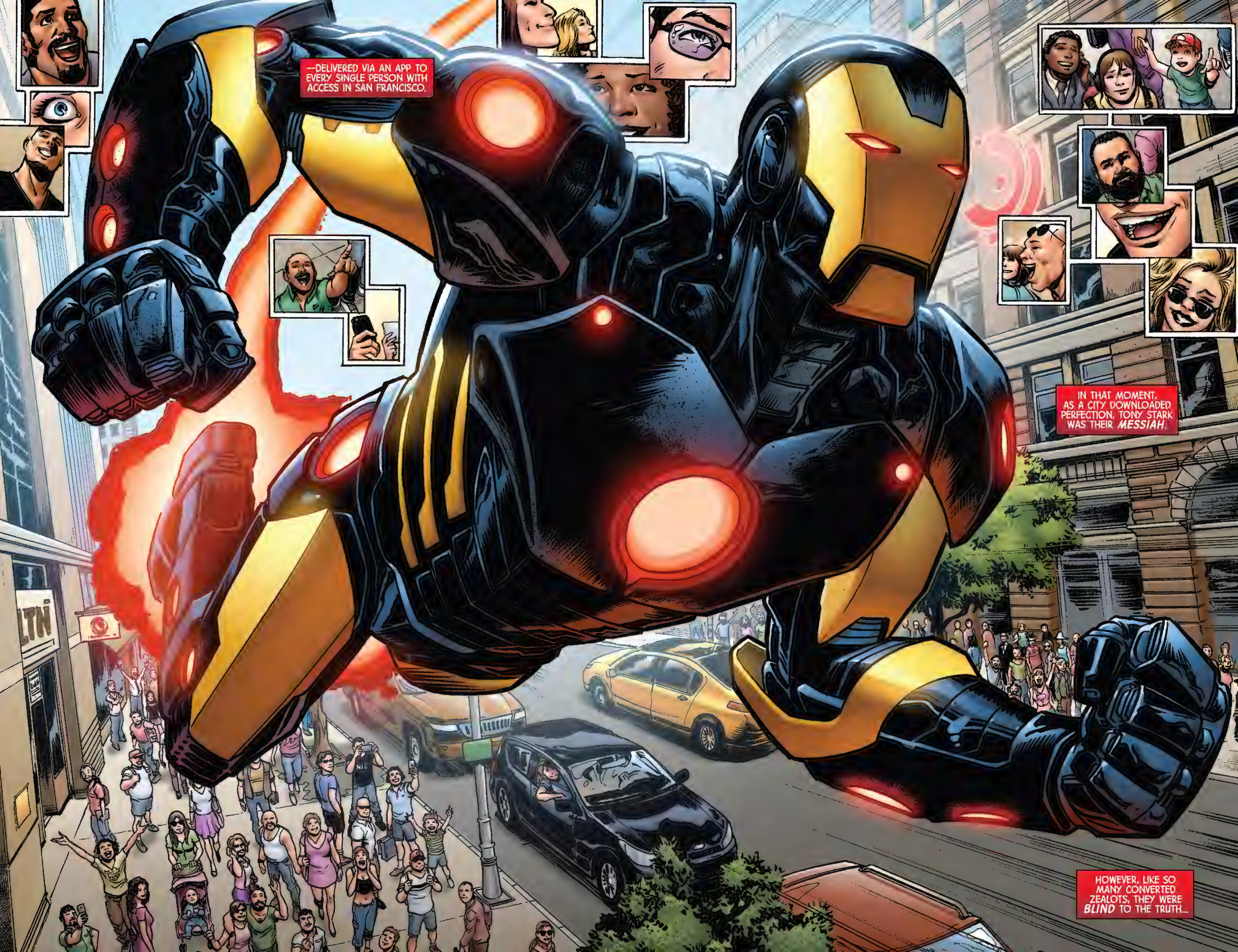
INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK IS ONE OF THE SMARTEST AND RICHEST MEN ON THE PLANET. WITH HIS HIGH-TECH ARMOR HE PROTECTS EARTH AS THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN.

DURING A WORLD-THREATENING BATTLE WITH A PSYCHIC-POWERED RED SKULL, IRON MAN AND AN ARMY OF HEROES DEFEATED THE VILLAIN...

BUT THE PSYCHIC FALLOUT CHANGED THE PERSONALITIES OF THOSE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

WHILE MOST WERE EVENTUALLY RESTORED, A MORE SINISTER TONY STARK EVADED CHANGING BACK...AND HE HAS SOME SPECIAL PLANS FOR THE WORLD HE SWORE TO PROTECT.

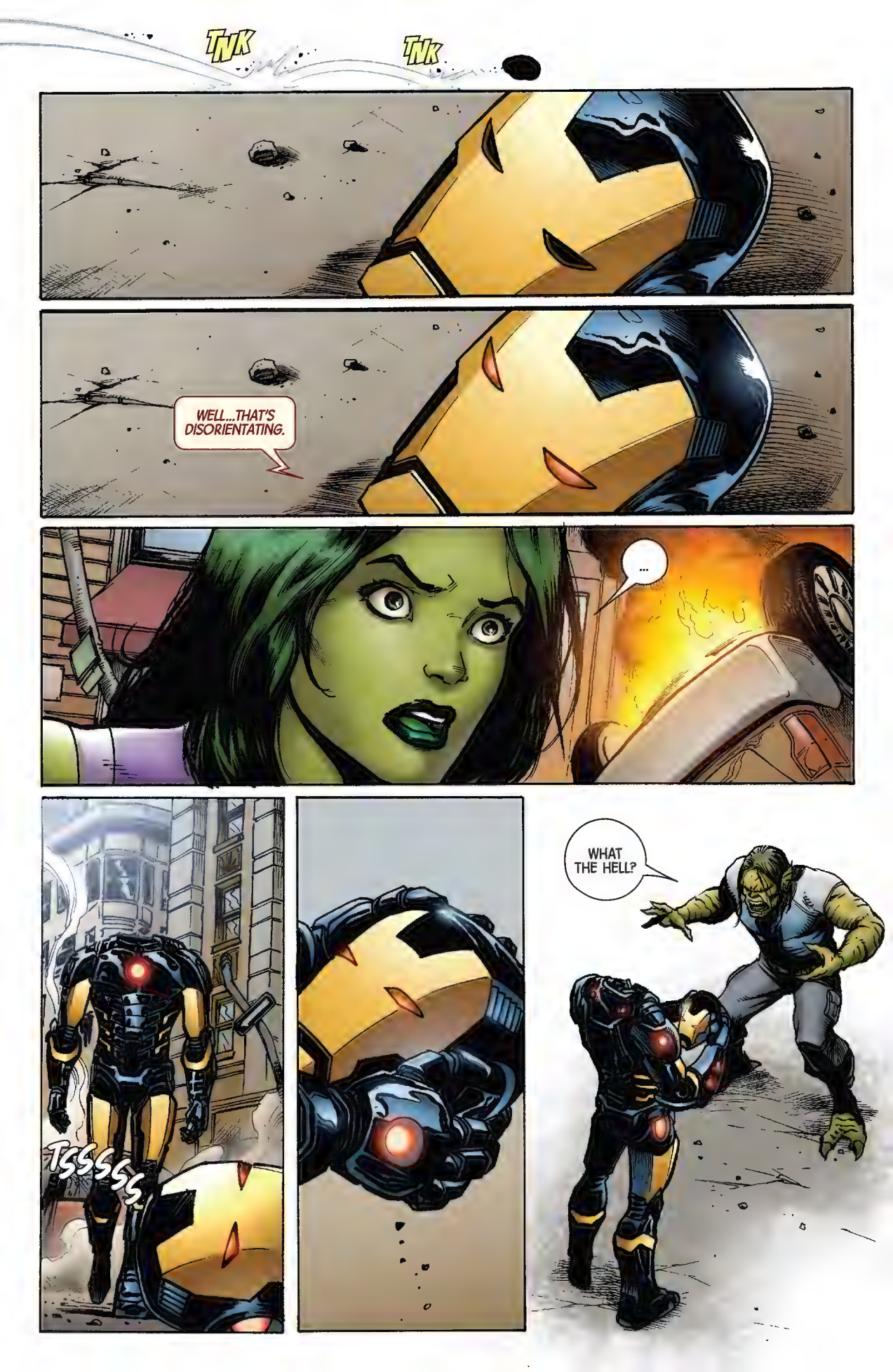
EXTREMIS 3.0
A TECHNO-VIRUS DESIGNED TO TRANSFORM YOU INTO THE VERY BEST "YOU" YOU CAN BE. BEAUTY, MUSCLE TONE, HEALTH--
OKAY, SAN FRANCISCO. IT'S TIME TO LOOK PRETTY FOR ME.


--DELIVERED VIA AN APP TO EVERY SINGLE PERSON WITH ACCESS IN SAN FRANCISCO.
IN THAT MOMENT, AS A CITY DOWNLOADED PERFECTION, TONY STARK WAS THEIR *MESSIAH*.
HOWEVER, LIKE SO MANY CONVERTED ZEALOTS, THEY WERE *BLIND* TO THE TRUTH...

ONE WEEK LATER.
LOOK OUT!
RUN!
AGGHHH!
CRNCH
HNF.
SHE-HULK, WHAT DO WE HAVE?
HE CALLS HIMSELF "TEEN ABOMINATION."
THAT'S A TERRIBLE NAME.
I TOLD HIM THAT. HE DIDN'T TAKE IT WELL.
WHY WOULD YOU CHOOSE AN AGE-SPECIFIC NAME? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE TURNS TWENTY?

YOU SHOULD MENTION THAT TO HIM.
WHY TEEN ABOMINATION?
HE'S BEEN EXPOSED TO A SMALL AMOUNT OF GAMMA RADIATION. HE'S NOWHERE NEAR THE ABOMINATION'S STRENGTH BUT HE'S PRETTY STRONG.
HOW STRONG?
KNG
UHFFF!
ZOOM
PRETTY STRONG.
BEFORE I BEAT YOU DOWN AND EMBARRASS YOU IN PUBLIC--
--I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT NAMES AND THEIR IMPORTANCE.

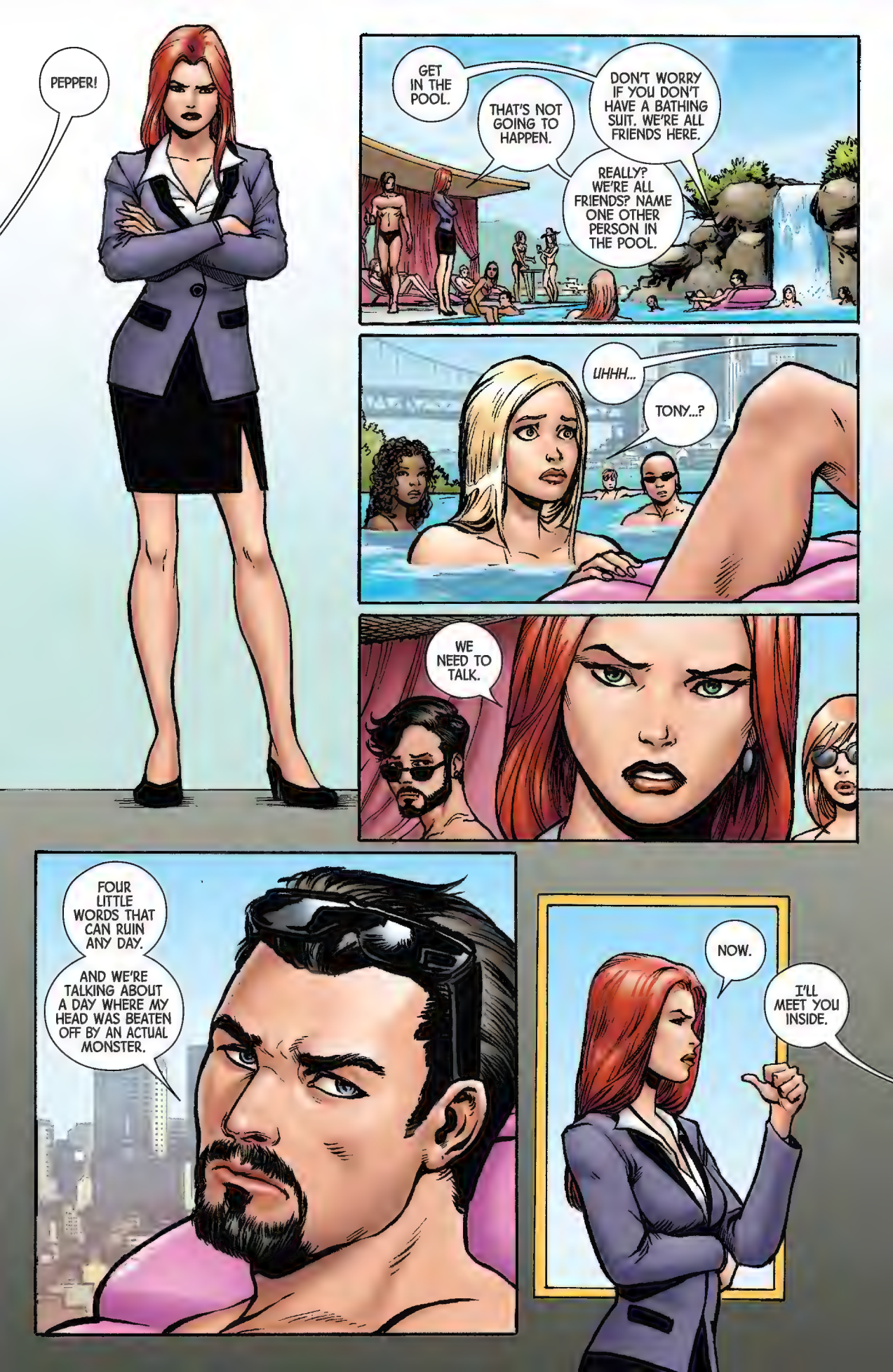
RRRRGHH!
TONY!


TNK
TNK
WELL...THAT'S DISORIENTATING.
...
TSSSSS
WHAT THE HELL?

CRACK
AARGH!
YOU'RE... YOU'RE NOT IN THERE.
PLEASE. YOU THINK I'D WASTE MY TIME ON "TEEN ABOMINATION"?
I INVADED YOUR CITY AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER SHOWING UP?
NOPE.
I WAS... I WAS TRYING TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.
YOU DIDN'T.

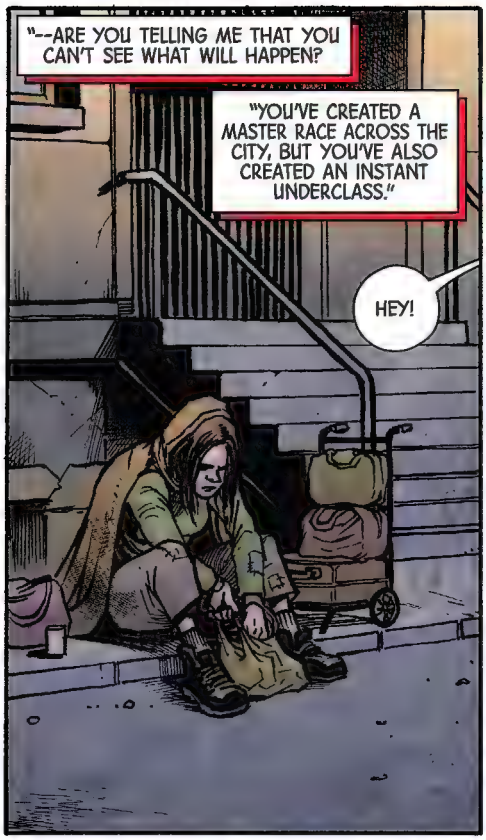
DID YOU HAVE TO HIT HIM THAT HARD?
HE'S JUST A KID.
TONY?
HEY. WERE YOU PLANNING ON TELLING ME THAT YOU WEREN'T IN THERE?
AND TAKE THE PERSONAL TOUCH OUT OF THE TEAM-UP? WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
ARE YOU OKAY TO DEAL WITH THE CLEANUP?
WHY? YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE BETTER TO BE?
WELL--

--AS A MATTER OF FACT...
WHY ARE YOU SMILING, TONY?
I JUST HUMILIATED A STUPID C-GRADE SUPER VILLAIN AND SAVED DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO.
HUH?
WHEN?
BETWEEN THE DEPRAVITY IN THE SPA AND THE LAST SIP OF THIS COCKTAIL.
TONY.


PEPPER!
GET IN THE POOL.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
DON'T WORRY IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BATHING SUIT. WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE.
REALLY? WE'RE ALL FRIENDS? NAME ONE OTHER PERSON IN THE POOL.
UHHH...
TONY...?
WE NEED TO TALK.
FOUR LITTLE WORDS THAT CAN RUIN ANY DAY.
AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A DAY WHERE MY HEAD WAS BEATEN OFF BY AN ACTUAL MONSTER.
NOW.
I'LL MEET YOU INSIDE.

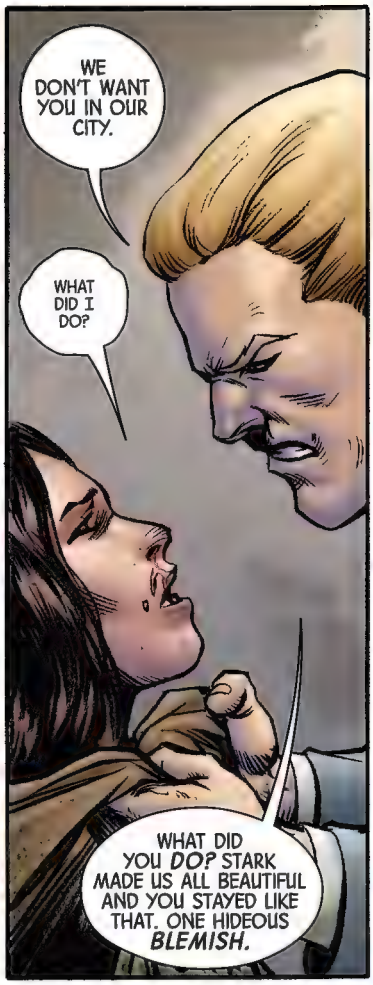
WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D MEET ME INSIDE, I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE AN HOUR.
I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE AN HOUR EITHER, BUT SOME OF THE GIRLS OUT THERE HAVE NO REGARD FOR PUNCTUALITY.
YOU'RE DRINKING AGAIN?
I AM. A LOT. I HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THOSE WASTED YEARS OF SOBRIETY.
NOW, IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH, PEPPER?
OR HAVE YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO SAN FRANCISCO JUST TO GIVE ME *DISAPPROVING LOOKS?*

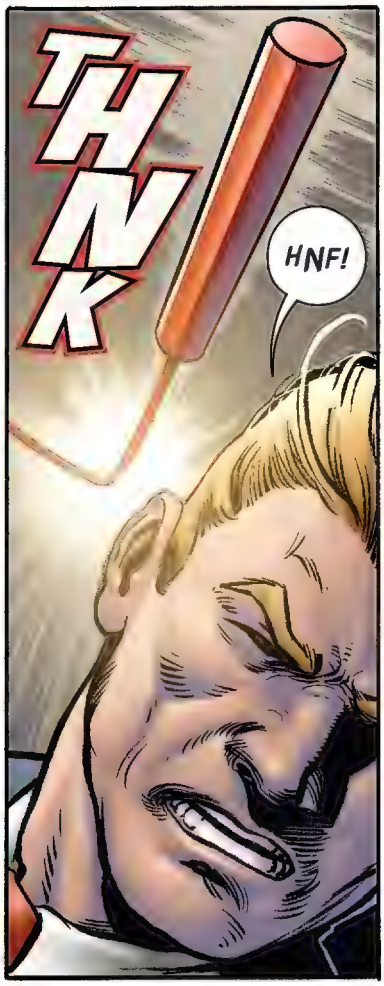
WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
ENDO-SYM ARMOR. FULL LIQUID SMART-METAL. HARDENS INSTANTLY ON CONNECTION. RATHER THAN RELYING ON A TECH ELEMENT FOR THE INITIAL BONDING PROCESS, I EXTRACTED SOME BUILDING BLOCKS FROM A SYMBIOTE. SO, THE START-UP IS COMPLETELY PSIONIC.
GREAT. SYMBIOTE-INFUSED ARMOR. THAT COULDN'T POSSIBLY END BADLY.
ALSO, IT HAS A CHROME FINISH, AND IT LIGHTS UP IN WAYS THAT PLEASE ME.
SUBTLE.
IT'S SEXY AS HELL.
WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE EXTREMIS APP.
I'LL BE IN THE POOL.
I'M SERIOUS, TONY. HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO THE RAMIFICATIONS?
RAMIFICATIONS? I TRANSFORMED SAN FRANCISCO INTO PARADISE OVERNIGHT.
PARADISE? THE WHOLE CITY HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A GIANT ORGY OF DRUNKENNESS, IRRESPONSIBILITY AND EXCESS.
SO, YOU ADMIT IT'S A COMPLETE SUCCESS?
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU THINK THIS IS A JOKE?
YOU CAN BE PROUD OF TURNING A MILLION PEOPLE INTO SUPERMODELS IF YOU WANT--
--BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE OUT THERE WITHOUT ACCESS TO EXTREMIS? YOU'RE A FUTURIST, TONY--

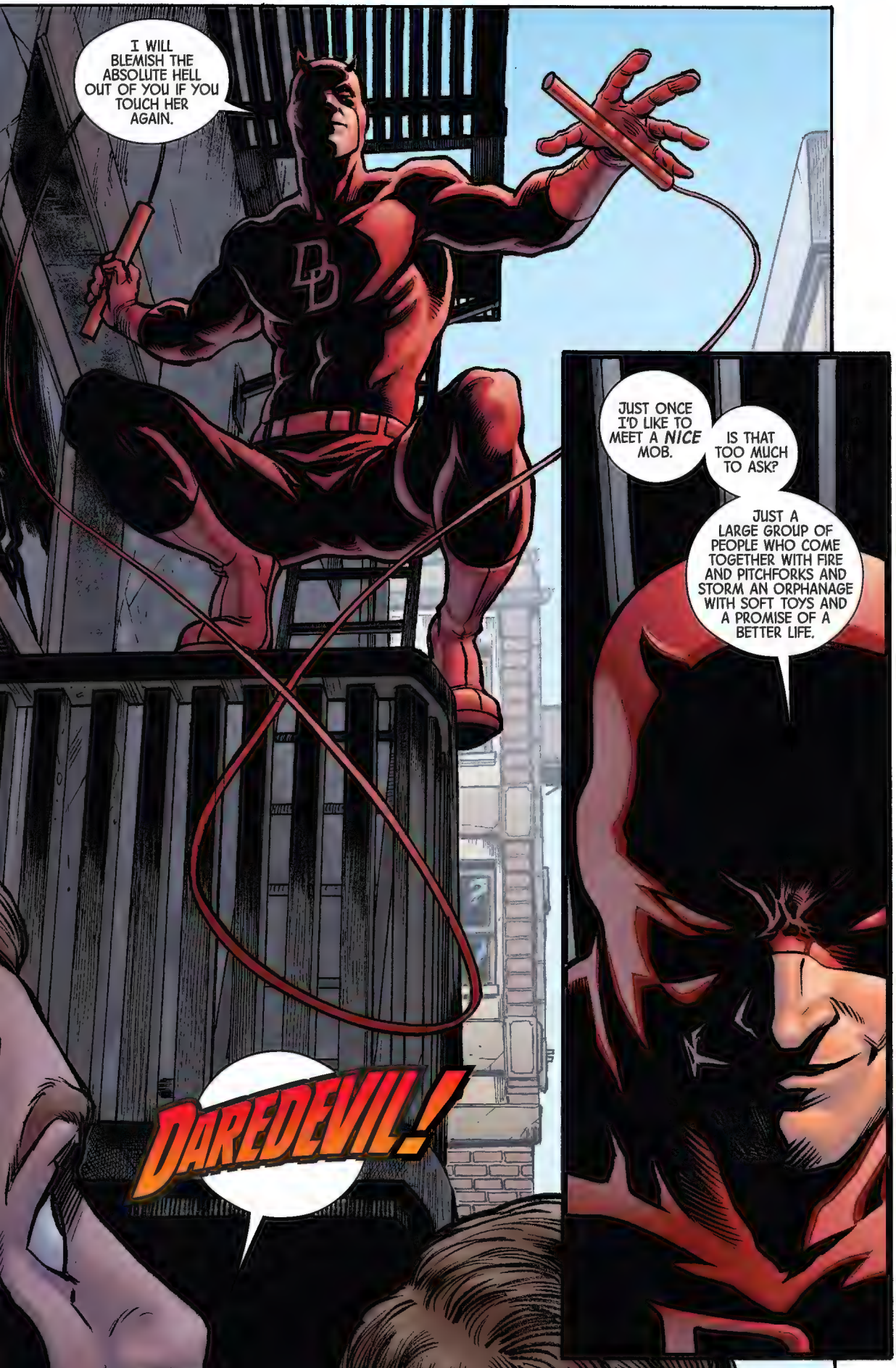

"--ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
"YOU'VE CREATED A MASTER RACE ACROSS THE CITY, BUT YOU'VE ALSO CREATED AN INSTANT UNDERCLASS."
HEY!

"EXTREMIS MAY HAVE MADE PEOPLE MORE BEAUTIFUL ON THE OUTSIDE BUT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT, FOR SOME--"
HEY!

"--IT WILL ONLY ENHANCE ALL OF THE UGLINESS WITHIN."
HEY. I'M TALKING TO YOU!
SOCK


WE DON'T WANT YOU IN OUR CITY.
WHAT DID I DO?
WHAT DID YOU *DO?* STARK MADE US ALL BEAUTIFUL AND YOU STAYED LIKE THAT. ONE HIDEOUS *BLEMISH.*


THNK
HNF!

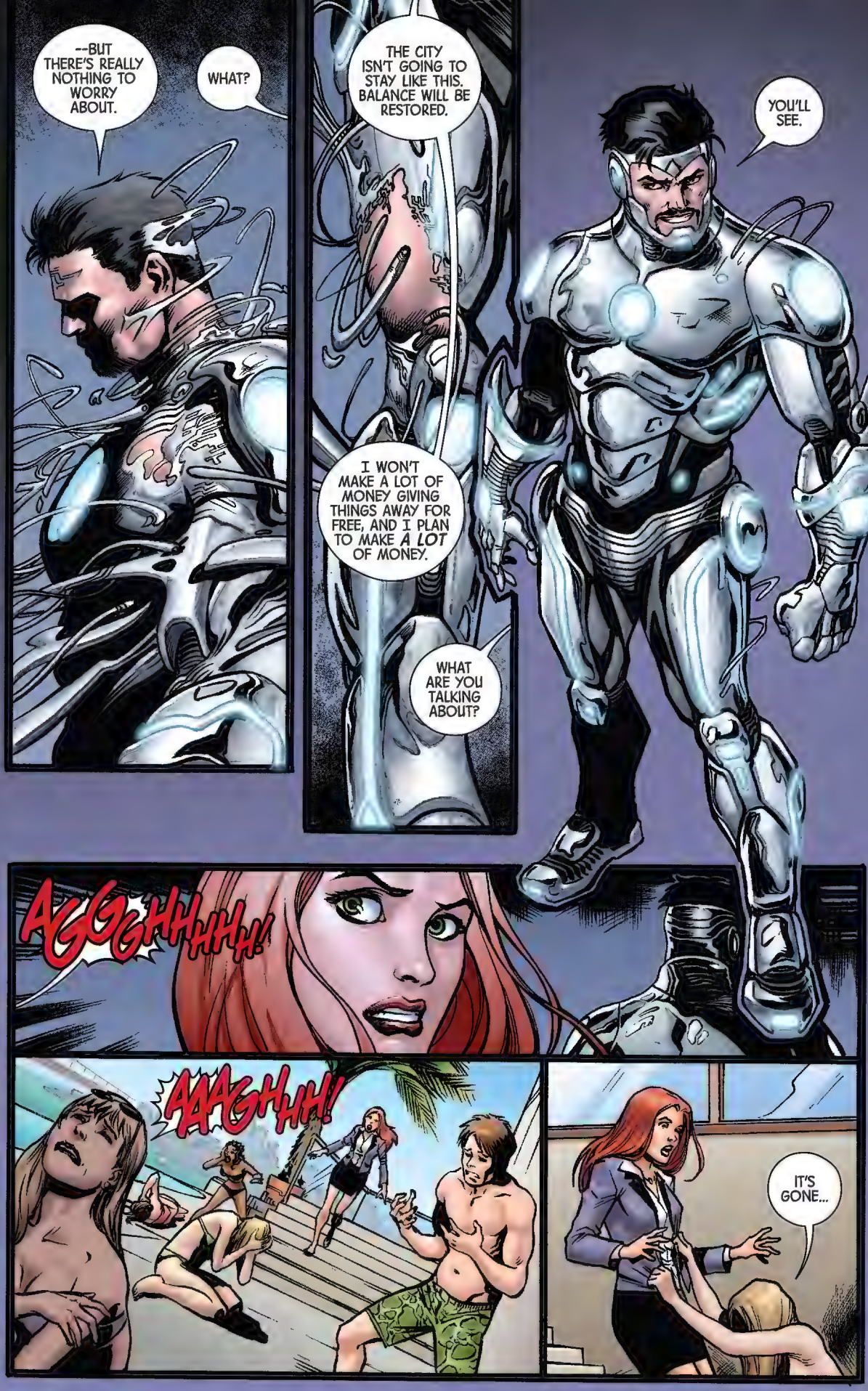

I WILL BLEMISH THE ABSOLUTE HELL OUT OF YOU IF YOU TOUCH HER AGAIN.
JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO MEET A *NICE* MOB.
IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?
JUST A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO COME TOGETHER WITH FIRE AND PITCHFORKS AND STORM AN ORPHANAGE WITH SOFT TOYS AND A PROMISE OF A BETTER LIFE.
DAREDEVIL!

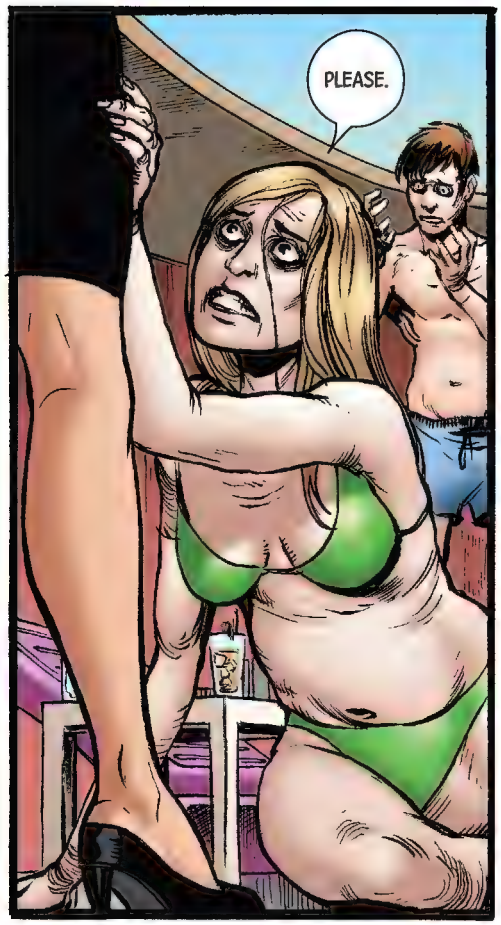
BACK UP. DON'T MAKE ME--
GHRK!

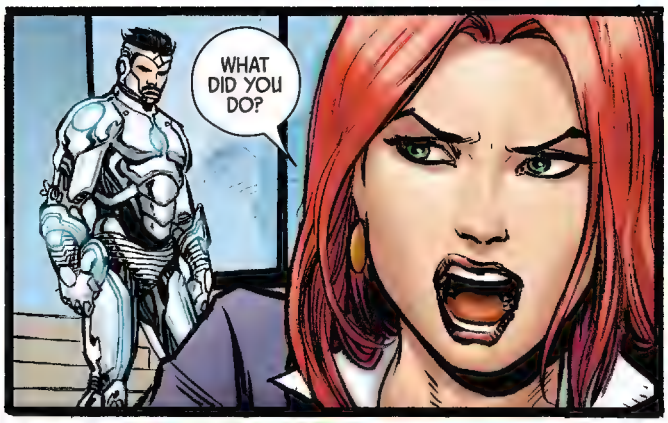
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET...

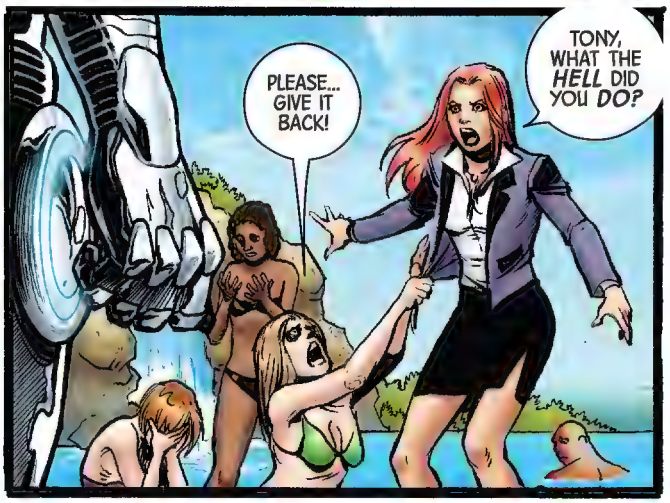
NO...
SOMETHING'S WRONG!

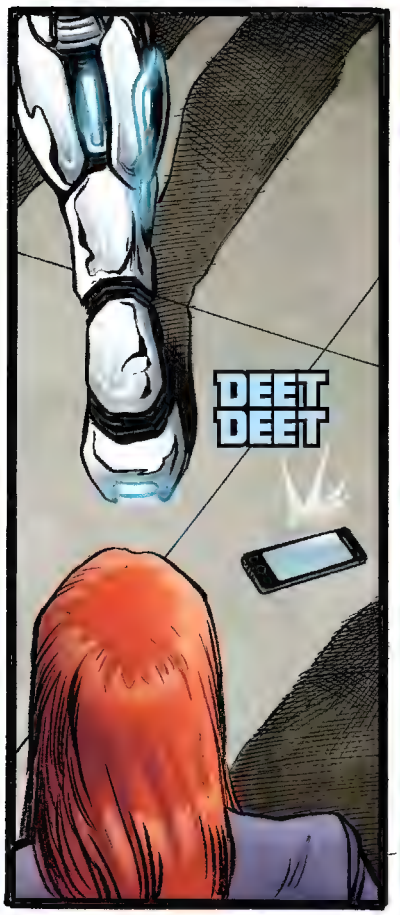
SOMETHING'S... NAAAAAGH!
STARK.
"I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING--"


--BUT THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
WHAT?
THE CITY ISN'T GOING TO STAY LIKE THIS. BALANCE WILL BE RESTORED.
YOU'LL SEE.
I WON'T MAKE A LOT OF MONEY GIVING THINGS AWAY FOR FREE, AND I PLAN TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AGGHHHHH!
AAAGHHH!
IT'S GONE...

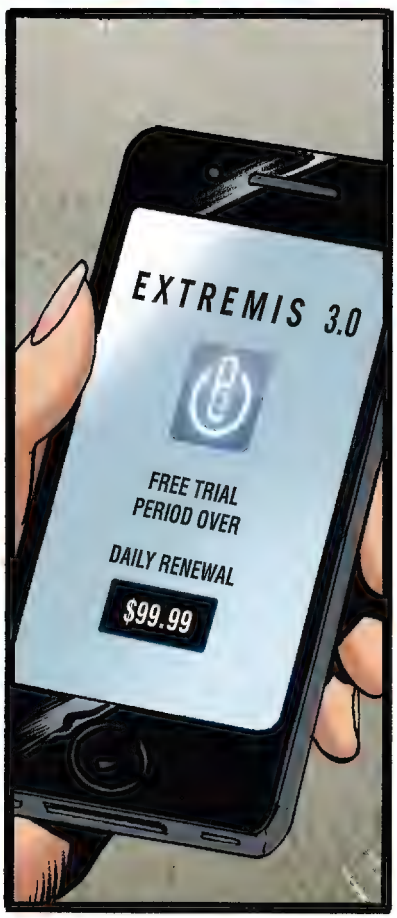

PLEASE.


WHAT DID YOU DO?


PLEASE... GIVE IT BACK!
TONY, WHAT THE *HELL* DID YOU *DO?*


DEET DEET

WHAT DID I DO? I JUST LAUNCHED THE CORNERSTONE OF THE NEW STARK INDUSTRIES.
I LET THEM ALL FEEL PERFECTION.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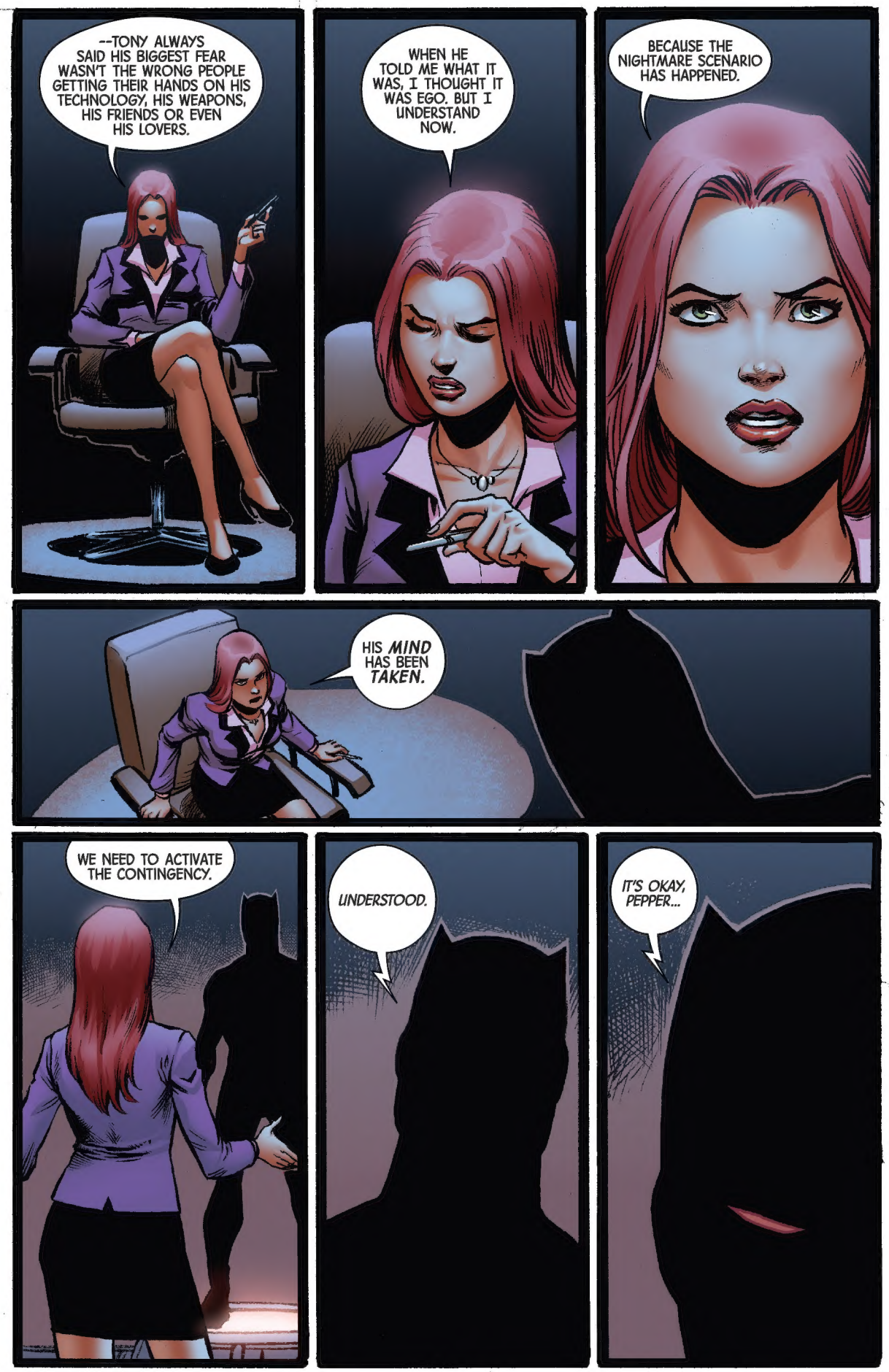
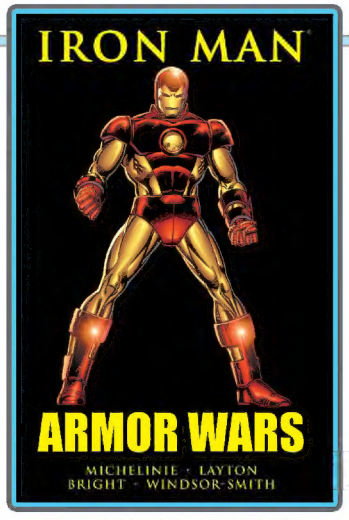
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THEY'LL DO TO GET THAT BACK?
I WANT TO WATCH.
"YOU WARNED ME--"

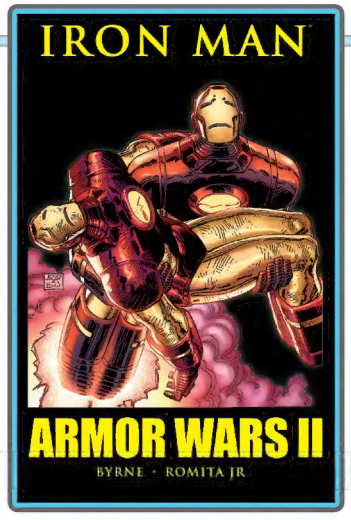

--TONY ALWAYS SAID HIS BIGGEST FEAR WASN'T THE WRONG PEOPLE GETTING THEIR HANDS ON HIS TECHNOLOGY, HIS WEAPONS, HIS FRIENDS OR EVEN HIS LOVERS.
WHEN HE TOLD ME WHAT IT WAS, I THOUGHT IT WAS EGO. BUT I UNDERSTAND NOW.
BECAUSE THE NIGHTMARE SCENARIO HAS HAPPENED.
HIS *MIND* HAS BEEN *TAKEN.*
WE NEED TO ACTIVATE THE CONTINGENCY.
UNDERSTOOD.
IT'S OKAY, PEPPER...

...THIS IS WHAT WE PLANNED FOR.
TO BE CONTINUED...

EDITOR'S PICKS



IRON MAN: ARMOR WARS TPB



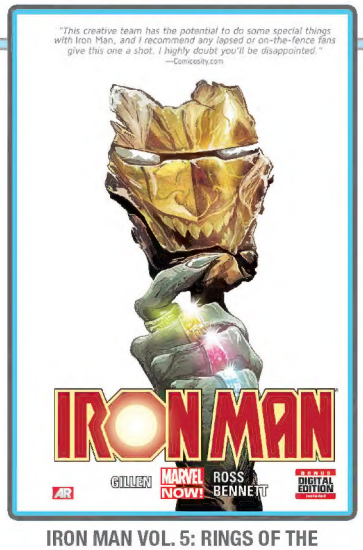
IRON MAN: ARMOR WARS II TPB

IRON MAN VOL. 1: BELIEVE TPB

IRON MAN VOL. 2: THE SECRET ORIGIN OF TONY STARK BOOK 1 TPB

IRON MAN VOL. 3: THE SECRET ORIGIN OF TONY STARK BOOK 2 TPB

IRON MAN VOL. 4: IRON METROPOLITAN PREMIERE HC



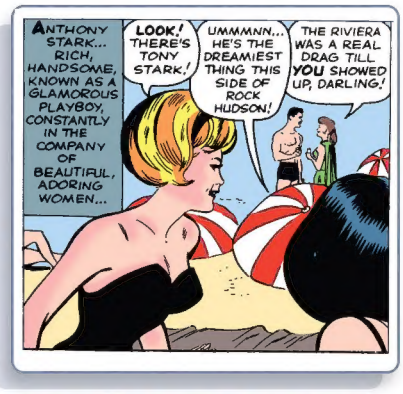
IRON MAN VOL. 5: RINGS OF THE MANDARIN PREMIERE HC

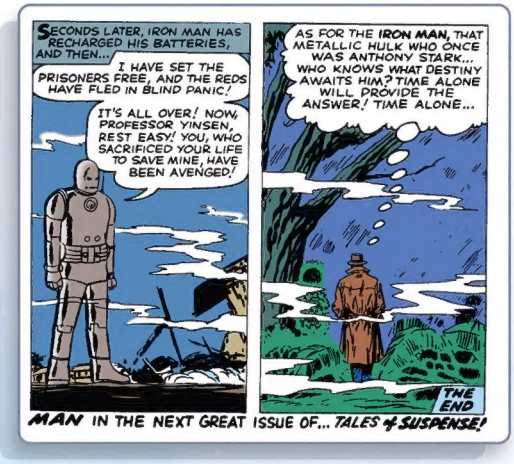
Here are some recommended collections for new and longtime IRON MAN fans.
All are available in fine comic shops and bookstores now!
—Mark Paniccia

SUPERIORITY COMPLEX

THE UNLIKABLE TONY STARK

When IRON MAN was created back in the '60s, Tony Stark was intentionally meant to rub people the wrong way. Superior to the average Joe in almost every way, he was a deliberate contrast to other Marvel heroes' alter egos. He was no lovable down-and-out Everyman that readers could relate to and sympathize with. Uh-uh, Tony Stark was the anti-Peter Parker. He was that guy you were supposed to feel a bit uncomfortable about--a successful industrialist who had more money than God. A lady's man who was never on the bad end of a relationship. A dude who had every high-priced toy from Porsches to private jets and, worst...worst of all, a profiteer who made his money on weapons sales. Tony Stark was darn-right unlikable!





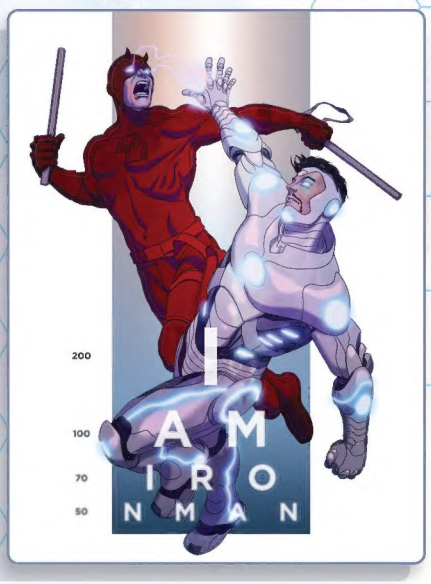
COOKING THE HERO

When you take a character that's sooo completely charmed, pull the rug out from underneath him (or break his heart, quite literally, in the case of TALES OF SUSPENSE #39), and show him the error of his ways during a personal crisis, you begin to see this is a recipe for hero soup. You couldn't help but feel sympathy for Tony when he escaped captivity thanks to Ho Yinsen's ultimate sacrifice. That was a real Marvel Moment...and the birth of the hero we know as IRON MAN. Over the years we've seen Tony, the guy who has everything, lose just about everything. From his best friends to his mental health to his very sense of identity. These are the things that test the mettle (pun intended) of the hero.

CAN WE GIVE THE GUY A BREAK? THE SHORT ANSWER IS NO!

I know what you're saying. What more can this guy go through? Well, thanks to the events of AVENGERS AND X-MEN: AXIS, we've got a new curveball to throw at the once-golden Avenger. Remember that Tony from before? The one we didn't like? The one with the superiority complex? What if we brought him back for good, maybe even cranked up the volume? What would happen to the IRON MAN we know and love? Can he come back? Will he come back? Like Tony said at the end of his first adventure...who knows what destiny awaits him?

See you next issue as writer Tom Taylor and artist Yildiray Çinar continue to answer those questions and explore the darker nature of the SUPERIOR IRON MAN.



Mark Paniccia
Senior Editor
Marvel Comics

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